



USDA Forest Service
ATTN: Justin Feeman
250 Ranger Station Rd
Tellico Plains, TN 37385

To Whom This May Concern:

The National Deer Association (NDA) supports the Restoration of Dry Forest Communities – Miller Ridge project in the Cherokee National Forest because it is clearly grounded in and consistent with the goals, objectives, and desired conditions outlined in the 2004 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan. It establishes clear priorities and science-based design elements needed to restore ecologically appropriate forest conditions. Without active management, the continued expansion of white and Virginia pine into unsuitable habitats will further degrade native plant communities and reduce quality habitat for wildlife species that depend on them, like white-tailed deer.

NDA is North America's leading wild deer conservation organization. The NDA is widely recognized for providing reliable, science-based information to hunters and policymakers alike. Our mission is to ensure the future of wild deer, wildlife habitat, and hunting. In pursuit of that mission, we support the efforts of this project to foster a balanced ecosystem that appropriately maintains off-site species.

This project appropriately recognizes the need for a full suite of management tools to address diverse conditions present across the landscape such as mechanical treatments, targeted chemical use, and prescribed fire.

By actively managing the land and resources in a way that aligns with the Forest Plan's long-term ecological goals, the project will help ensure the Cherokee National Forest continues to provide lasting benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your continued commitment to science-based, forest management.

Sincerely,

Catherine Appling Pooler
Director of Policy